

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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PELATH: TIME BILL, COLTS SCHEME DON'T HELP LAPORTE COUNTY

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City) said today that he intends to oppose a daylight-saving time bill and an Indianapolis Colts stadium measure because both are unfair to LaPorte County. The two initiatives are scheduled for a vote in the Indiana House of Representatives early next week.

"We again are dealing with folks who believe the world ends about 30 miles north of Indianapolis," said Pelath. "This bad time change bill and the Colts' raid on our riverboats only serve to isolate Northwest Indiana from the rest of the state."

House Speaker Brian Bosma (R-Indianapolis) intends to hold a vote on legislation that would force most of Indiana to observe Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Pelath said such a change would ensure that LaPorte County would be an hour behind South Bend and most of Indiana all 12 months of the year.

Because Northwest Indiana observes Central Daylight Saving Time and a major portion of Indiana presently observes Eastern Standard Time, at least the two areas have been on the same clock for six months out of the year.

"There is no question that the current system is less than ideal, but the real solution is to move all of Indiana into the same time zone as Northwest Indiana," said Pelath. "If our goal is to better integrate the state, then the bill's supporters are running in the wrong direction."

Pelath supported several amendments to the time change proposal that would have put virtually all of Indiana in line with LaPorte County within the Central Time Zone. The amendments were defeated by narrow margins.

Pelath also plans to oppose a 1-percent tax increase on Indiana riverboats in order to fund a new Indianapolis Colts stadium. He said the riverboat industry already plays a growing role in funding state and local government.

"I'm not inclined to go back to the riverboat well, and if I was, the Colts would be absent from my list of possible ways to use the revenue," said Pelath. "Education would be at the top."

Pelath said that regional compromises have been commonplace in the Legislature in recent years, but he has seen little offered to Northwest Indiana in the current session.

"I have heard Governor Daniels say that all parts of Indiana must succeed, and I agree with him," concluded Pelath. "These bills don't advance that cause."

This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H09